



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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LAWRENCE, KANSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION WITH THE INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Charles Thomas, Jr.**, 19, Lawrence, Kansas, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to **78 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by 8 years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Thomas entered a guilty plea on December 8, 2003, to one count of possession with the intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of an elementary school.

Melgren said that Thomas admitted at his plea that on April 3, 2003, officers with the Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's office arrested Thomas on outstanding warrants and found 46 rocks (approximately 7.68 grams or .27 ounce) of crack cocaine, a set of electronic scales, and a bottle containing PCP on his person. The officers next searched Thomas' residence on Kentucky Street in Lawrence, Kansas, which is located within 1000 feet of Cordley Elementary School, Lawrence, Kansas, and found a plastic bag containing approximately 5.8 grams (approximately .20 ounce) of crack cocaine and other drug paraphernalia.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.